

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/656,322

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this amendment, Applicant has amended the specification, amended claims 1, 3 and 4 and modified Figs. 1 and 2 to show the electrical connection box. For the following reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

In more detail, to overcome the objection to the drawings, Applicant submits herewith corrected Figs. 1 and 2 schematically showing the electrical connection box 20. Similarly, the specification has been amended to refer to reference numeral 20. Approval of the proposed drawing correction is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,963,099) in view of the admitted prior art discussed in the background portion of the application.

Referring to the primary reference, Sato, et al., the Examiner contends that Sato, et al. discloses an insulating board 2 which includes first bus bar 10A and 10B which are disposed on one side of the insulating board and second bus bars 1A and 1B disposed on the opposite side of the insulating board. With reference to Figure 8, the Examiner contends that the first bus bars 10A and 10B are disposed on the upper side of the second bus bars 1A and 1B.

The Examiner acknowledges that the reference fails to disclose that the bus bars are supplied with different voltages. It is for this reason that the Examiner relies on the admitted prior art and specifically, page 1, lines 23-25 of the disclosure which discloses that bus bar 3 is supplied with a low voltage and bus bar 4 is supplied with a high voltage. In view of this

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disclosure, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the first bus bars 10A, 10B of Sato, et al. with a low voltage and to supply the second bus bars 1A , 1B with a high voltage to arrive at the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that both of the first and second bus bars are disposed on the front face of the insulating board, rather than on opposite faces, as in Sato, et al. Applicant respectfully submits that Sato et al. does not teach or suggest this arrangement.

In addition, Applicant submits that the Examiner's obviousness determination is simply based on hindsight. More specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion in the art to modify the Sato, et al. device in the manner proposed by the Examiner such that one set of bus bars is supplied with a high voltage and the other set is supplied with a low voltage.

Turning to the rejection of claims 3 and 4, similar amendments have been made to these claims as well. For the reasons discussed above, these claims should patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. More specifically, based on the Examiner's analysis, the reference fails to disclose or suggest an arrangement in which first and second bus bars are disposed on a front face of an insulating boards where the first bus bar is located in the first area which is partitioned from the second area in which the second bus bar is provided, as claim 3 requires. Claim 4 is similar to claim 3 and further requires that the first area that includes the first bus bar of a lower potential is disposed on the upper side of the second area, in the vertical direction. Based on the Examiner's analysis, that the cited art does not teach or suggest this feature of the invention either.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended to indicate reference numeral 20.

Attachment: Annotated Marked-Up Drawings